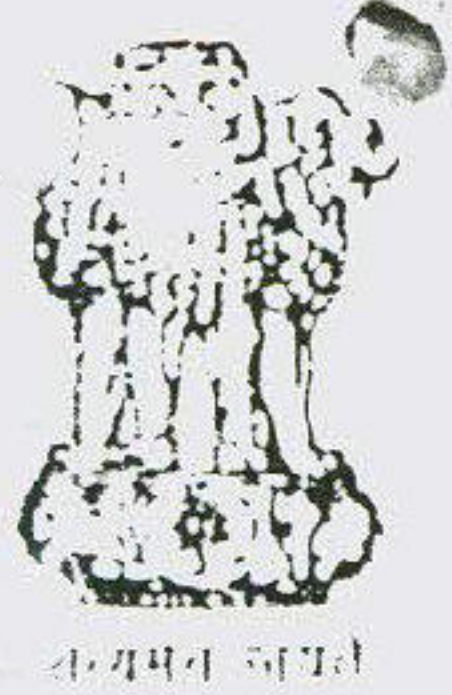




पी. एस. कृष्णन्
P. S. KRISHNAN
6183190

सदस्य-सचिव
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग

भारत सरकार
ट्रिकूट-१, भीकानजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - ११००६६

Member - Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
Government of India
Trikoot - 1, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110 066

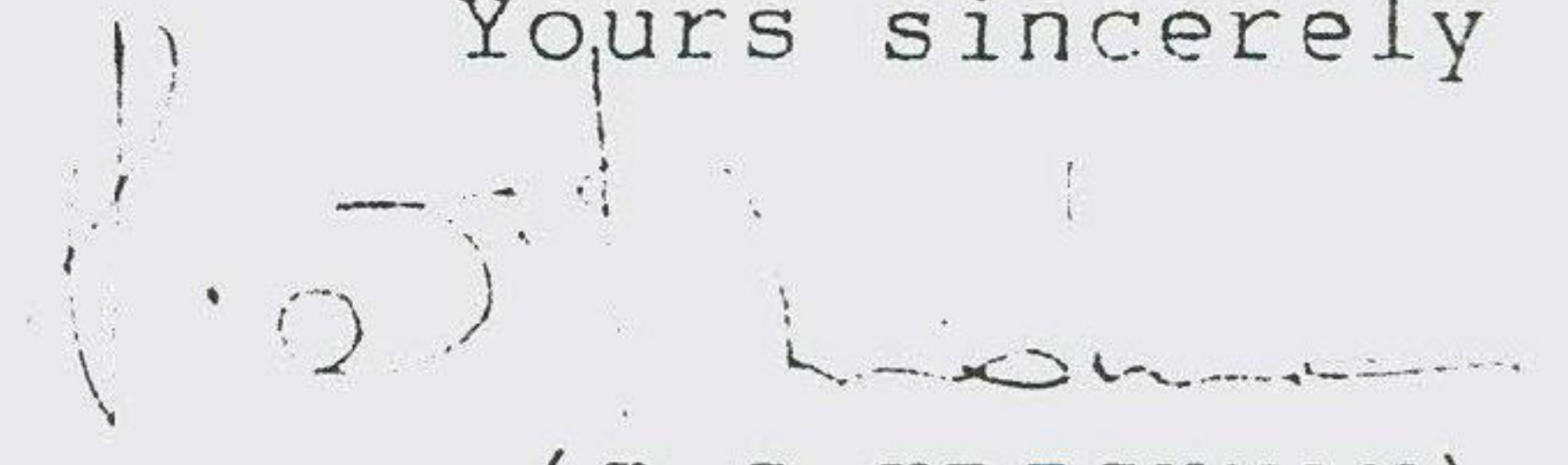
NCBC Advice No. 57 West Bengal/99

07.06.1999

Dear Smt. Das,

I am sending herewith the Advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act for the Rejection of the Request for Inclusion of "Tili" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the NCBC Act.

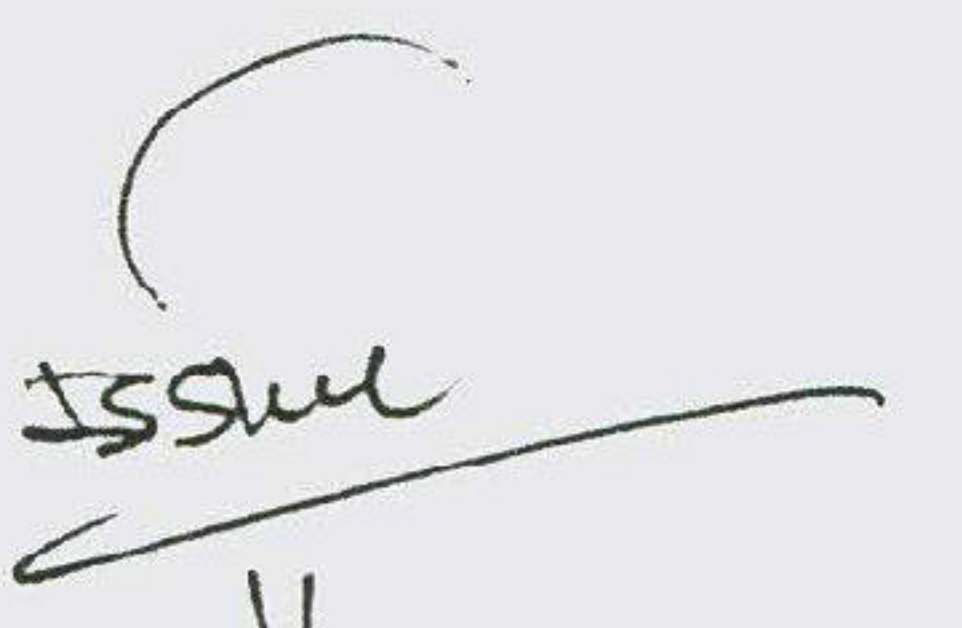
Yours sincerely


(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated.

Smt. Asha Das
Secretary to Govt. of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI

o/c


7/6/99

NCBC Advice No. West Bengal 57/99

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

WEST BENGAL

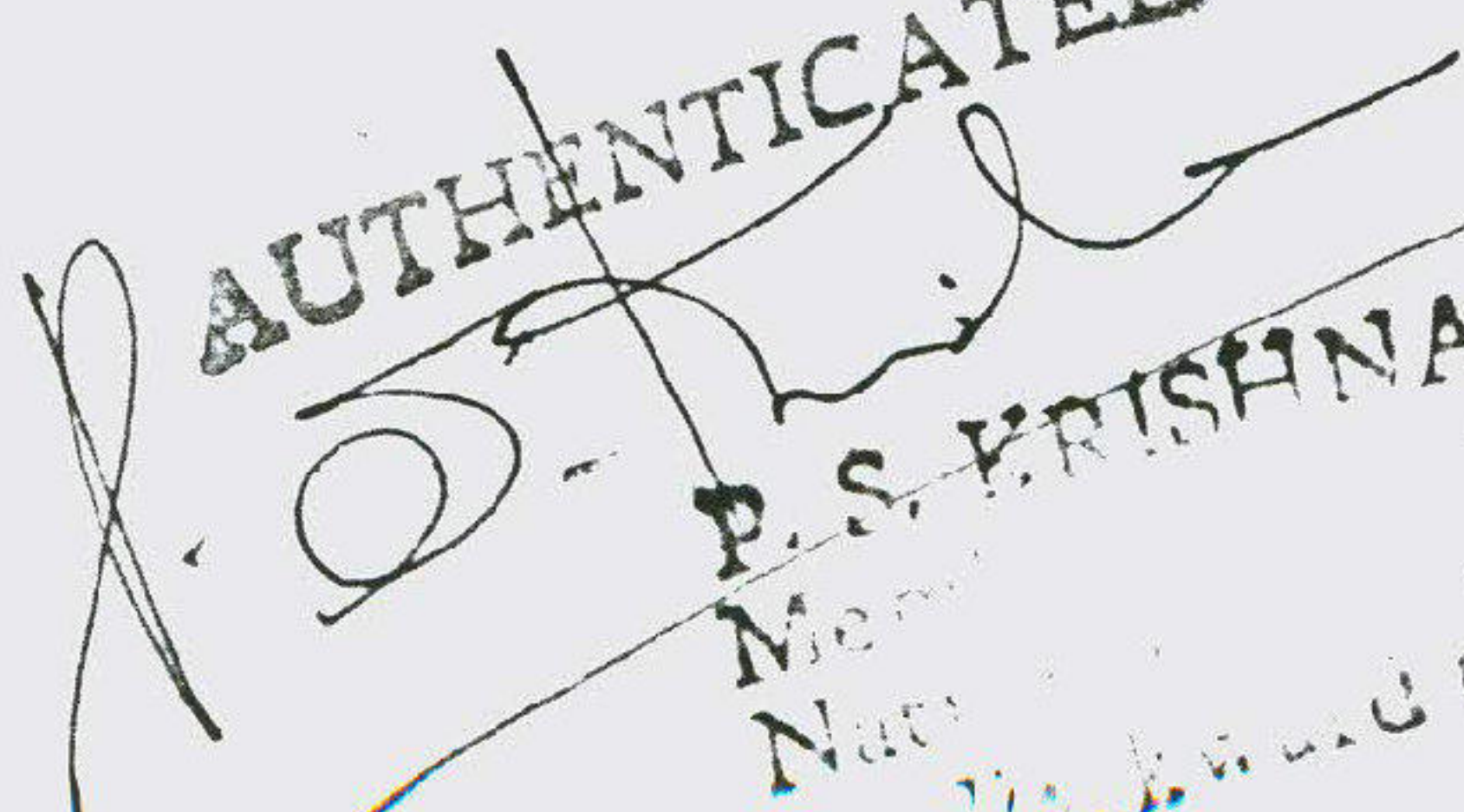
FINDINGS

Case : Request for inclusion of "Tili" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal.

Per Shri Justice P.K. Shyamsundar, Chairperson

This case arises from the Requests received in the National Commission for Backward Classes for inclusion of "Tili" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal from the following:-

- (i) Dr. B. Mullick
Secretary
Tili (Teli) Samaj
Calcutta.
- (ii) Shri Rabindra nath Kundu, Advocate
Jt. Secretary
Tili Samaj Unnayan Samiti
Vill. & P.O. Chandpara Bazar
Distt. 24-Parganas (North)
West Bengal.
- (iii) Shri Prasanta Kumar Biswas
General Secretary
Confederation of Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes
And Minorities of West Bengal
Calcutta.

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P. S. KRISHNAN
Member
National Commission
for Backward Classes

II. Public Hearing

2. The Full-Member Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Chairperson, Justice P.K. Shyamsundar, Hon'ble Member-Secretary, Shri P.S. Krishnan and Hon'ble Members, S/Shri U.P. Singh and Sahu Akshaya Bhai held a Public Hearing at Calcutta on 5.5.1999 to examine this Request for inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal. At the Public Hearing the State Govt. was represented by Dr. M.K. Chaudhari, Director and Dr.(Mrs.) R. Gupta, Cultural Research Officer from Cultural Research Institute, Calcutta. The caste/community was represented by the following:-

- i) Shri Bhakta Ranjan Dhabal
- ii) Dr. B. Mullick
- iii) Shri Aditya Kumar Pal
- iv) Shri Suranjan Kundu
- v) Shri Sagar Mandal

III. Facts

3. The relevant entries in respect of the caste/community in different lists of Other Backward Classes are reflected as follows:-

(i) Mandal List

"172. Tili"

(ii) State List

Not included

(iii) Central List

Not included

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Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

4. The Confederation of Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities of West Bengal, Calcutta made a Request to include, inter alia, Tili caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal. While describing 'Tili' caste/community, it is mentioned therein that there are two types of people in Bengal who deal in edible oils and oilseeds. Those who cultivate oil seeds are known as Tili and those who trade in edible oils are called Teli. They comprise 5 to 6 Lakhs population in West Bengal. These people are socially and educationally backward. Teli is already classified as OBC but Tili is left out.
5. Dr. B. Mullick, President, Tili (Teli) Samaj, Calcutta has intimated the resolution unanimously adopted by the Tili Samaj in its public meeting held on 14 May, 1999, after the public hearing, which states that "the main caste of Tili is Teli" and as Teli is already included in the OBC list, Tili be also included under Teli. He has further stated that the Tilis are socially and educationally backward community. There is no M.P. or Minister from Tili community. The majority of them are landless labourers and they still observe one month mourning after the death of family members.
6. Shri Suranjan Kundu, Metropolitan Magistrate, Calcutta who along with others from the Tili caste/community appeared before the Bench at the Public Hearing stated that their original caste is Teli and intermarriages exist between Telis and Tilis. Many Tilis have the same occupation as Telis. It is further submitted by them that most Tilis, more than 80%, live in rural areas and cultivate land and most of them are petty land owners.
7. At the Public Hearing the partially filled up NCBC's Questionnaire by the Teli Samaj, Bankura District Committee, West Bengal was submitted to the Bench which mentions the request for inclusion in the Central List of OBCs for West Bengal for Teli/Tili caste/community and quotes Teli as the main caste. It is further mentioned therein that the population of the caste/community is approximately 8 lakhs spread all over the State. The caste/community is stated to be socially backward and mainly depend for livelihood on agriculture. 80% of them are shown as small and marginal farmers, 10%

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It is not an uncommon phenomenon in Hindu society for a section of a caste, generally of lower order, to abandon their traditional caste profession adopting one which is regarded as 'nobler' by Brahmana law-writers, and gradually form a caste of their own separate from the parent stock..... It seems that the Teli traders have originated by a similar process from the oilman caste, though their separation must have begun several centuries ago. The very name Teli as is used in Bengali or Tailika as written in the Brihaddharma Purana is suggestive of such an origin. The trading Telis have sought to distinguish themselves from the oil-pressing Telis by adopting a comparatively newly-coined work Tili, which, however, is not recognized by the other castes in general. The word was not known to the old lexicographers, Sanskrit or Bengali, and obviously cannot be derived from the word Tula or weighing scales. The weighing scales are not a monopoly of the betel-dealers in Bengal as the Tilis claim to be in their origin..... Nobody has yet suggested that Tili comes from the name of any aboriginal tribe or is a word borrowed from foreign vocabulary."

10. The NCBC has tendered its Advice for rejection of Request for inclusion of "Tili" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Bihar vide NCBC Advice No. Bihar 30/99 dated 17.5.99.

IV. Findings

11. From the foregoing material, it becomes apparent that the "Tilis" are primarily a trader caste/community and as A.E. Porter's account quoted above suggests was separated from the Teli caste/community following their association with the Navasakha group highlighting their self-perception of higher social status. This fact therefore belies the claim of social backwardness of the community. This is not a case of the Teli caste in its entirety adopting a new or a different name. Tili appears to be an offshoot of the Teli


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 National Commission
 for Backward Classes

community from whom they separated later leaving behind the rest of the original "Telis" to continue as "Teli". These facts contradict the claim of the representatives of the caste/community that the Teli and Tili is one and the same caste and engaged in a common occupation pursued by Teli. Besides the literacy rate of the caste/community is said to be admitted quite high being 70% in 1997 as against the State literacy rate of 57.5% in 1991. **The Bench, therefore, finds that the Request for inclusion of "Tili" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal is unwarranted and liable to be rejected as it is not Socially and Educationally Backward but is a Socially and Educationally Advanced caste/community of traders.**

P. K. Shyamsundar
2.6.99

(Justice P.K. Shyamsundar)

P. S. Krishnan

(P.S. Krishnan)

2.6.1999

U.P. Singh
4/6.99
(U.P. Singh)

Akshaya Bhai
04.06.99
(Sahu Akshaya Bhai)

AUTHENTICATED

P. S. Krishnan
P. S. KRISHNAN
Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

V. Advice of the Commission

12. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Findings of the Full Bench and decided to tender the following advice to the Central Government under Section 9(1) of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act:-

“The Request for inclusion of “Tili” caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal be rejected, as it is not a Socially and Educationally Backward.

On account of the unfortunate demise of one of the Members, Shri Navtej Puadhi on 16.8.1998, this unanimous Advice of the Commission does not bear the signature of that Member. The validity of the Advice, notwithstanding the vacancy caused by the demise of the aforesaid Member, is protected by Section 7 of the NCBC Act, 1993.

P. Le. Nagaraj
2.6.99

R. Shayan
04.06.99

P. S. Krishnan
2.6.1999

Madhav Singh
4.6.99

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Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes